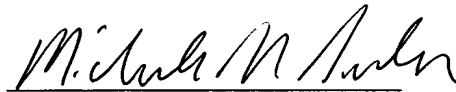


Moreover, 37 C.F.R. 1.141 provides that a reasonable number of species may still be claimed in one application if the other conditions of the rule are met; *i.e.*, provided that the application also includes an allowable claim generic to all the claimed species and all the claims to species in excess of one are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of the generic claim. Applicants' claimed invention meets all of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.141 and, therefore, the species election requirement should be withdrawn.

Finally, Applicants presume that the Examiner will follow the procedures delineated in MPEP 809.02(c). Specifically, when all claims directed to each of the non-elected species are embraced by an allowable generic claim, "claims drawn to the nonelected species are no longer withdrawn since they are fully embraced by the allowed generic claim."

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 17, 2001

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